

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: May 4, 2010
POSITION: Neutral

BILL NUMBER: SB 1475
AUTHOR: J. Simitian

BILL SUMMARY: Vehicles: Electronic Wireless Communications Devices

This bill would: increase fines for driving while using a handheld cell phone or texting, apply the ban against handheld cell phones and texting to bicyclists, provide that driving while using a handheld cell phone or texting is a primary offense for drivers under 18 years of age, and require that \$10 of each fine be deposited in a new fund to be used by the Office of Traffic Safety for education programs on the dangers of cell phone use and text messaging while driving. The bill also would require the Department of Motor Vehicles to add dangers of cell phone use and text messaging to the list of items that must be on an examination for a driver's license.

FISCAL SUMMARY

The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) estimates no costs because DMV already has a test question about distracted driving.

COMMENTS

Finance is neutral on the bill. The California Highway Patrol notes no significant difference between the number of traffic collisions related to wireless communications devices and other driving distractions, such as the use of car radios and compact disc players.

In January 2010, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration instituted a ban against texting while driving commercial trucks, subject to a fine of up to \$2,750 for violation of the ban. Seven states have banned driving while talking on a hand-held cell phone, and text messaging is banned for all drivers in 24 states.

Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	SO	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)								Fund Code
	LA	(Dollars in Thousands)								
	CO	PROP								
	RV	98	FC	2009-2010	FC	2010-2011	FC	2011-2012		
2740/DMV	SO	No	----- No Fiscal Impact -----						0044	
<u>Fund Code</u>	<u>Title</u>									
0044	Motor Vehicle Account, STF									

Analyst/Principal (0744) J. Gregg	Date	Program Budget Manager Mark Hill	Date
--------------------------------------	------	-------------------------------------	------

Department Deputy Director	Date
----------------------------	------

Governor's Office:	By:	Date:	Position Approved _____
			Position Disapproved _____

BILL ANALYSIS	Form DF-43 (Rev 03/95 Buff)
----------------------	-----------------------------